

RICHLAND COUNTY

Office of Clinton Langreck, County Administrator

Disaster Proclamation

Richland County

WHEREAS, a disaster, namely COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, within the Richland County and throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, because of such emergency conditions, the governing board is unable to meet with promptness;

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby proclaim a state of emergency in effect for the time during which the emergency conditions exist or are likely to exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, FURTHER, the County Administrator shall exercise all of the powers conferred upon the governing body under all applicable statutes and ordinances, which within the discretion of the officer appear necessary and expedient during said state of emergency.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand.

Done at the Richland County Courthouse on this 17th day of March , 2020 .



Clinton Langreck; County Administrator

Urgent News Release #1

Richland County Emergency Management

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For immediate release: **March 17, 2020**

RICHLAND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DECLARES PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Richland Center, WI: Effective immediately, County Administrator Clinton Langreck has declared a Public Health Emergency in Richland County in an effort to guard against the spread of COVID-19, also known as Coronavirus.

As of today, there remain no confirmed cases of COVID-19 within Richland County. However, multiple cases have now been reported in several other Wisconsin counties. Because of this, county officials are proactively trying to minimize the effects of the virus locally. Richland County's action follows Governor Tony Evers recent statewide emergency declaration.

The County Administrator is recommending the following preventive guidelines for individuals, businesses and organizations:

- People at higher risk are encouraged to stay home and away from large groups of people as much as possible. Higher risk individuals include:
 - People 60 and over;
 - People with underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes; and
 - People with weakened immune systems.
- Visitors will be restricted from the Richland County Jail.
- Per Wisconsin Department of Health Services, organizers of public gatherings with at least 250 people are recommended to cancel their events, however, many are adhering to a smaller threshold of 50 or more people to reduce opportunities for person-to-person virus transmission.
- Non-essential travel for all individuals is discouraged. Those planning trips should consider the risks versus the benefits, not only to themselves, but to the more vulnerable population.

Richland County Public Health is closely monitoring and responding to COVID-19 information provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION REGARDING COVID-19

When to seek medical evaluation and advice:

- Please call your healthcare provider if you experience symptoms including cough, fever, or other respiratory problems. Do not go to the emergency room; call ahead to let them know you need to come in with these specific symptoms and do not sit in the waiting room. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- Call 911 if you are having a medical emergency. In addition to the recommendations listed above, the CDC is advising the public to:
 - Stay home when sick.
 - Practice excellent personal hygiene habits, including handwashing, coughing into tissue or elbow, avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
 - Stay six feet away from people who are ill, especially if you are 60 and older or have underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or a weakened immune system.
 - Do not shake hands with anyone and avoid unnecessary contact.
 - Stay informed as information is changing rapidly. Reliable sources include:
 - ❖ Richland County:
<https://co.richland.wi.us/departments/hhs/publichealth/coronavirus.shtml>
 - ❖ Wisconsin Department of Health Services:
www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19
 - ❖ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/

For further updates, follow Richland County Health & Human Services on Facebook.